

LWV MEETING
April 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Lincoln County LWV was held at the Newport Public Library at noon on Thursday, April 17. Those in attendance were members Genevie Rosin, Ruth Kistler, Jack Kistler, Ruby Miller, Gertie Schramm, Frances Van Wert, Marilyn Podesta and Maxine Demory, and guest John Sherman.

Guest speaker was Bruce Koike, Interim President of Oregon Coast Community College. Koike has served as the college's Interim President since December 2011. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Aquarium Science Program director since that program's inception in 2001. Before that, he served as an aquatic animal husbandry specialist at different public aquariums. He earned a MS in Fisheries Science at Oregon State University, a BS in Biology at Southwest Missouri State University, and an Associate's Degree in General Education at Grossmont Community College (El Cajon, CA).

He was an entertaining and informative speaker, enlisting audience participation and involvement in a discussion of OCCC and its position as one of only 17 Community Colleges in Oregon.

He discussed the funding available and the challenges involved in stretching the funds to meet the needs of the students and help them achieve their dreams. He noted that OCCC offers Associate degrees and transfer credits in most academic studies, as well as basic skills such as GED and English as a second language. There are special programs in Aquarium Science, Nursing and Allied Health, and Criminal Justice.

He explained the accreditation process, which can be either independent or through a contract with another accredited institution. Currently OCCC has a contract with Portland Community College. Independent accreditation takes seven years and he noted that two community colleges in Oregon have recently achieved their accreditation and OCCC expects to start the process soon.

Koike then announced that Dr. Brigette Ryslinger has been selected as the new College President. She will take the position on July 1, 2014. He said that he has enjoyed his time as Interim President and was one of the finalists for the position, but he recognizes that her qualifications and experience will be good for the college.

Notes by Maxine Demory